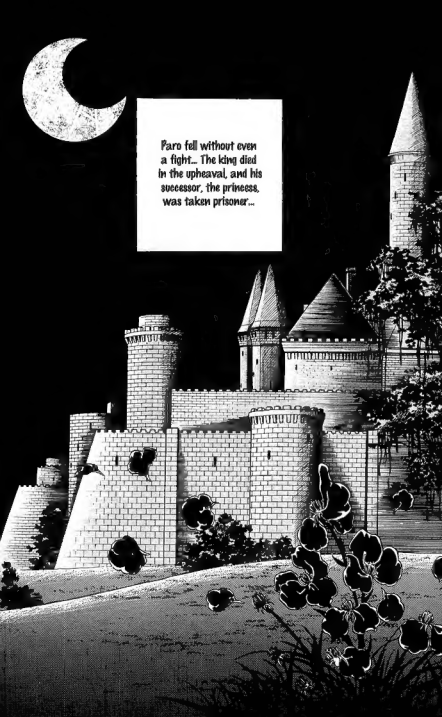
shoujo magic
Do you believe in Magic?
In a young girl 's heart...

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Paro fell without even a fight... The king died in the upheaval, and his successor, the princess, was taken prisoner...

That night,
Calosian soldiers loitered around the city.
The sad news crept through the bands of soldiers, passed along in whispers, and made its way to the masses of Paro.

THE CENTER OF TOWN IS CRAWLING WITH CALOSIAN SOLDIERS,
BUT THEY WON'T GET TO A SMALL FISHING VILLAGE LIKE THIS FOR A WHILE YET.
LET'S ARM OURSELVES BEFORE THEY ARRIVE!
WE MAY NOT HAVE ANY SOCIAL STANDING, BUT WE'RE CITIZENS OF PARO TOO!
Shoujo Magic

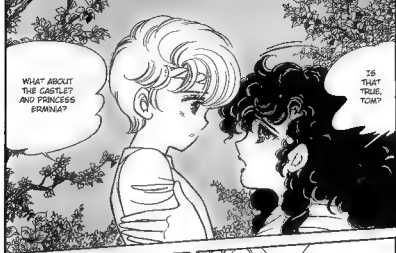
THE IMPORTANT NOBILITY AND ROYALTY HAVE BEEN EXECUTED,
SO WE'RE THE ONLY ONES NOW WHO CAN PROTECT PARO!
IT'S TIME FOR US TO CARRY OUT OUR DUTY AS FAITHFUL CITIZENS OF PARO!
LET'S MAKE CONTACT WITH THE OTHER VILLAGES.
PARO WILL BE FOREVER SHAMED IF IT FALLS WITHOUT A FIGHT.
SO LET'S FIGHT!
IT'S OUR ONLY OPTION!
I'LL FIGHT TOO!
TOM, YOU PROTECT YOUR GRAND-PARENTS.
AND YOUR BABY SISTER.
THAT'S WHAT BEING A HERO'S REALLY ABOUT.

That's why we're ...
MUTTER MUTTER
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO GO OUT AND FIGHT!
HMPH! MEN AREN'T SUPPOSED TO STAY AT HOME TO PROTECT THEIR FAMILIES!
LIIRA, PLEASE GO TO THE ENTRANCE AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND TOM.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S OUT SO LATE. HE HASN'T EVEN HAD DINNER!
AND SHE'S TAKEN A SHINE TO TOM.
GRAMPS, WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO LIIRA IF YOU SEND HER OUT ALL ON HER OWN?
BUT SHE'S NOT THAT SUICIDAL ANYMORE.

The castle of Paro is over there, where the moon is...
Princess Erminia!

LOOK, FIONA... WHAT A MOONLIT NIGHT!
I WILL NEVER FORGET,
THE CARNIVAL, THE MUSIC, THE DANCING.
Princess Erminia... I wish I'd died that night...
Why am I still alive? Why did they have to go and rescue me when I threw myself in the river?

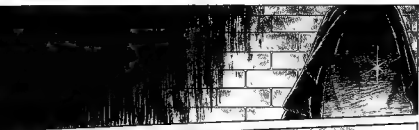
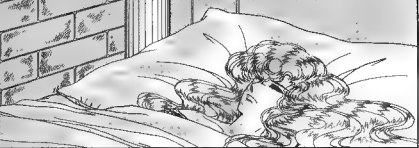
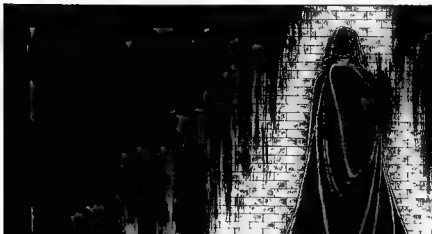
SIS!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, TOM?
WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
I'M GONNA BE A KNIGHT OF PAROS!
ALL THE GUYS AT AMIMOTO'S HOUSE ARE SAYING
THAT THEY'RE GONNA FIGHT AGAINST CALOS, 'CAUSE PAROS FELL TO IT!
WE'RE GONNA PICK UP SWORDS AND BECOME KNIGHTS OF PAROS BEFORE THE CALOSIAN SOLDIERS GET TO THE MOUTH OF THE LIIRA RIVER.

Paros fell!? To Calos...!?
Princess Erminia!!

IS THAT TRUE, TOM?
WHAT ABOUT THE CASTLE? AND PRINCESS ERMINIA?
TH- THEY SAID THAT THE KING DIED AND THE PRINCESS WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE.
Ah! Princess Erminia is still alive!

Shoujo Magic
COULD YOU SHOW ME WHERE EVERY-ONE IS, TOM?
I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE.
OKAY!
LIIRA! TOM! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
DON'T WORRY. IF THEY'RE ABLE TO RUN WITH SUCH ENERGY, THEY'LL BE FINE.
EVER SINCE WE FOUND LIIRA AT THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TAKE MY EYES OFF HER FOR FEAR THAT SHE'D TRY TO KILL HERSELF AGAIN.
SHE MUST HAVE HAD HER REASONS. SHE WOULDN'T EVEN TELL US HER REAL NAME, AFTER ALL.

Princess Erminia, after that horrible incident, I fell so deeply into despair that I threw myself into the river.
Even after I was rescued, all I could think of was committing suicide.
But if what Tom said has really happened to you...
maybe it's that Yan spared my life so that I could save yours!

until I
come to
your aid.
Please be
unharmed.
Please, please
remain
unharmed

M...
MM. .

MMM...
I HAD THE MOST TERRIBLE DREAM...
It was frightful. Completely dreadful... Father...
I'M PARCHED. .
IS THERE ANYONE HERE? BRING ME WATER, PLEASE.

LIFT
How strange... What is this pain ...?
HERE YOU ARE, PRINCESS ERMINIA. PLEASE DRINK THIS.
heh heh

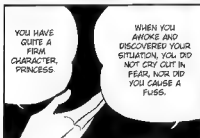
Where
...?
WHO ARE YOU!? COME INTO THE LIGHT!
WHERE AM I ? THIS ISN'T MY ROOM.
WHO ARE YOU ? WHY AM I...?

SO I WAS CORRECT.
WHEN CLOTHED AS A WOMAN, YOUR BEAUTY IS ASTOUNDING
heh
heh
heh
ONE COULD EVEN DEEM YOU THE FAIREST MAIDEN IN THE LAND.
IT IS TRULY REGRETTABLE THAT YOU WOULD CHOOSE TO HIDE SUCH BEAUTY ON A WHIM, PRINCESS ERMINA.

WHO
ARE
YOU?

THE KING'S REMAINS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN A CASKET AND ENSHRINED IN WHAT WAS FORMERLY THE RECEPTION ROOM.
...WHAT HAS BE-COME OF MY FATHER?
ONCE THINGS IN PAROS HAVE SETTLED DOWN, WE SHALL GIVE HIM A FUNERAL BEFITTING A FORMER RULER.
CALOS HAS NO DESIRE TO STIR UP THE FEELINGS OF THE CITIZENS OF PAROS JUST AS THE COUNTRY HAS FINALLY COME INTO OUR HANDS.

MAY I
MAY I SEE MY FATHER?
I CANNOT ALLOW THAT, PRIN-CESS.
YOU ARE A PRISONER OF THE CALOSIAN ARMY, AND ARE GUILTY OF THE CRIME OF BRINGING ABOUT THE KING'S SUDDEN DEATH.
THE COUNTRY OF PAROS NO LONGER EXISTS. IT IS NOW UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE CALOSIAN ARMY.
WE ARE THE ONES WHO WILL DECIDE WHETHER YOU SHALL LIVE OR DIE.

YOU ARE WELL-TRAINED.
IT PAINS ME TO SEE YOU STRUGGLE SO.
VERY WELL. YOU MAY DO AS YOU PLEASE.
WHEN YOU AWOKE AND DISCOVERED YOUR SITUATION, YOU DID NOT CRY OUT IN FEAR, NOR DID YOU CAUSE A FUSS.
YOU HAVE QUITE A FIRM CHARACTER, PRINCESS.
I DON'T MIND STRONG WOMEN. I SHALL TAME YOUR SHREWISH WAYS AT MY LEISURE WHEN WE RETURN TO CALOS.

TO CALOS? WHATEVER FOR?
WHY, OUR WEDDING, OF COURSE.
I BEG YOU, CEASE!
JUST HEARING THAT WORD IS ENOUGH TO MAKE THE HAIRS ON MY BODY STAND ON END!
HEH. THERE ARE ONLY TWO PATHS AVAILABLE TO YOU, PRINCESS: EXECUTION, OR LIFE AS THE CROWN PRINCESS OF CALOS.
YOU MAY ACT LIKE A MAN, BUT THAT DOES NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU ARE A WOMAN! AND WOMEN MUST SUBMIT TO MEN.
Oh
SWAT

WHY PERSIST IN THIS STUBBORNNESS? YOU *WILL* COME BACK TO CALOS WITH ME AND BECOME MY BRIDE.
YOU SHOULD SUBMIT NOW, WHILE I'M STILL BEING A GENTLEMAN ABOUT IT.
ptoo
SMACK

HEH HEH ...
WHAT IF I PROPOSED TO KILL YURIAS IF YOU DID NOT SUBMIT TO ME?
HEH, HEH, HEH... DO YOU REJECT ME OUT OF FIDELITY TO COUNT YURIAS?
IF YOU INTEND TO KILL ME, PROCEED! I HAVE NO DESIRE TO HEAR ABOUT NONSENSE SUCH AS MARRIAGE.
WHAT IS IT YOU FIND AMUSING!?

...I HAVE NO FIDELITY TO YURIAS. YOU MAY DO AS YOU PLEASE.
I SHALL FOLLOW HIM SOON ENOUGH. ONE MUST ONLY DIE ONCE. YURIAS WILL GIVE HIS LIFE FOR ME.
HEH, HEH... THE POOR FELLOW. NOT ONLY HAS HE LOST HIS SIGHT, BUT HIS DEAR PRINCESS SPEAKS OF HIM IN SUCH DISPARAGING TONES.
Yurias's eyes have ...!?
Yurias has lost his sight!?

Shoujo Magic
IF YURIAS IS NOT THE REASON FOR YOUR STUB-BORNNESS ...
I SHALL MAKE YOU MINE.
THERE IS ONLY ONE TASK I MUST COMPLETE.
GRAB
DO NOT TOUCH ME WITH YOUR FILTHY HANDS!
DO NOT FORGET THAT I AM YOUR HUSBAND
I MUST RETURN TO CALOS BEFORE YOU TO MAKE THE PREPARATIONS FOR OUR WEDDING BEFORE I LEAVE, I SHALL MAKE YOU MINE.
THUD
BE QUIET!
UNHAND ME!

DO NOT TOUCH ME WITH YOUR FILTHY HANDS! DO NOT TOUCH ME WITH HANDS SULLIED WITH THE BLOOD OF PAROS!
hen hen
YOU CONTINUE TO PUT ON A BOLD FRONT.
MEN ARE SUCH CREATURES, PRINCESS.
THEIR HANDS SULLIED WITH BLOOD, THEY MAKE CONQUESTS OF THE WOMEN OF THE COUNTRIES THEY HAVE DEFEATED
YOU CAN NO LONGER RESIST WILL YOU SHED TEARS NOW?

hmph
NO CHANCE!
PLEAD WITH ME MEEKLY IS THAT NOT WHAT WOMEN DO?
I HAVE NO CHOICE NOW BUT TO USE FORCE TO MAKE YOU SUBMIT!
YOU HAVE NOT A DROP OF SWEETNESS WITHIN YOU!!
ST-...
STOP!
FAON!
RIP
RIP

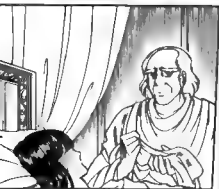
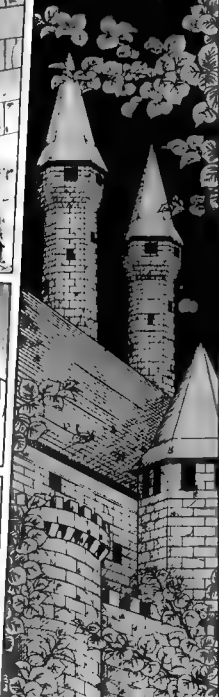
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN HOLDS MEN IN SUCH DISDAIN.
I SHALL

FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, IT HAS BEEN THUS: WHATEVER BRAZEN REMARKS A WOMAN ORIGINALLY MAKES,
SHE WILL UNDERGO A SUDDEN CHANGE ONCE A MAN HAS HAD HIS WAY WITH HER.
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, ERMINIA..

Shoujo Magic
SMACK
SO YOU TRULY HATE ME, ERMINIA!
YOU HATE ME SO DEEPLY YOU WOULD ATTEMPT TO BITE OFF MY TONGUE!

I WOULD RATHER BE BURNED ALIVE THAN ALLOW YOU TO RAPE ME.
...I AM NOT SUCH A TERRIBLE MAN AS YOU MAKE ME OUT TO BE...
SIGH
I SHALL WAIT UNTIL YOUR FEELINGS TOWARDS ME SOFTEN.
WE SHALL HAVE TIME APLENTY TOGETHER IN CALOS. AFTER ALL, AS HUSBAND AND WIFE, WE WILL BE SHARING A LIFETIME TOGETHER.

PRINCESS ERMINA.
WELL WE SHALL MEET AGAIN IN CALOS.
YOU TRULY LOATHE ME SO?

THUD
YOU SHALL NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW HER TO DIE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YOU SHALL MAKE SURE SHE ARRIVES SAFELY IN CALOS, WHERE I SHALL BE AWAITING HER.
WATCH OVER HER CAREFULLY DO NOT ALLOW HER TO COMMIT SUICIDE!

IS THERE NO HOPE FOR EITHER OF MY EYES. ?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU MUST BE SURE NOT TO REMOVE THE BANDAGES YET.
WELL... IF YOUR BANDAGES WERE TO BE REMOVED, THERE WOULD BE NO HOPE AT ALL FOR WHAT REMAINS OF YOUR EYESIGHT
How worthless this body is.
Yanus ...
VERY... VERY SURE NOT TO.

I could not even protect Erminia.
And I cannot even move my body as I desire.
THUD
Yanus! Please save Erminia, and the city of Parol
ERMINIA

WHO IS IT!?
BE SILENT, I BEG OF YOU!
WE MUST NOT ALERT THE GUARDS
THIS IS FIONA, SIR YURIAS. HAVE YOU FOR-GOTTEN ME?
FIONA!
IT IS INDEED YOUR VOICE!
HOW COULD I FORGET YOU?
IT IS A MIRACLE YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SURVIVE THUS FAR.

I KNOW THE REASON BEHIND YOUR DISAPPEARANCE, FIONA.
I DID NOT SPEAK TO ERMINA OF IT, FOR FEAR OF WHAT SHE MIGHT ATTEMPT
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO APPEAR NOW?
...I SHALL TELL YOU ONE DAY
I HAVE ASKED THE HELP OF ONE OF THE CASTLE SERVANTS IN ORDER TO COME TO PRINCESS ERMINA'S AND YOUR AID.
I HAVE ALSO RECEIVED HELP FROM YOUTHS OUTSIDE THE CASTLE WHO HAVE SWORN THEIR LOYALTY TO THE CITY OF PARO

I SHALL SAFELY CONVEY PRINCESS ERMINIA TO MY MOTHER'S HOMELAND, THE DUCHY OF CALAVIA.
UNTIL THAT TASK IS COMPLETED, PLEASE CONCENTRATE ON YOUR OWN RECUPERATION, SIR YURIAS.
FIONA... ARE YOU TRULY FIONA?
THE TIMID, PETITE GIRL I REMEMBER?
I SNUCK INTO THE CASTLE BY POSING AS A FISHERMAN'S SON COME TO DELIVER FISH.
MY GREATEST WISH IS TO GIVE MY LIFE FOR PRINCESS ERMINIA.
FIONA...

THE NEXT WATCHMAN WILL SOON ARRIVE. I SHALL CONTACT YOU IN TWO OR THREE DAYS' TIME.
PLEASE BE PATIENT FOR A WHILE LONGER, SIR YURIAS.
FIONA... BE CAREFUL.
SHOULD YOU BE DISCOVERED, YOU WILL BE EXECUTED.
MY TIME TO DIE IS NOT YET AT HAND.

CHATTER
CHATTER
GRAND DUKE ALPHONSE, I AM ENTRUSTING YOU TO ENSURE THAT PRINCESS ERMINIA'S BRIDAL PROCESSION ARRIVES SAFELY IN CALOS.

heh heh
OF COURSE. AS THE NEXT RULER OF PARO, I SWEAR I SHALL DO SO.
Hmph... He is a cunning man. Let him keep his position as the future king-- It is a mere formality.
MM.
It is Erminia and I who will sit on the throne of Paro one day.
TO CALOS---!
MOVE OUT---!

Shojo Magic
WE'VE ONLY JUST SUCCEEDED IN STABILIZING THE CITY OF PARO!
mutter
HMPH... FINALLY, HE'S GONE.
PREPARATIONS FOR HIS WEDDING? WHAT NERVE!
YOUR GRACE, WE HAVE APPREHENDED THE LEADER OF A GROUP OF YOUNG NOBLES. HE WAS HIDING IN THE CELLAR
WE MUST RESTORE ORDER TO THE CITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
WHEN YOU FIND SOMEONE OF THAT NATURE, KILL THEM ON SIGHT!
AND HOLD A FUNERAL FOR THE PAST KING.
mutter
mutter
AND WE MUST HOLD MY CORONATION IMMEDIATELY
mutter
mutter
WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS IN ORDER TO APPEASE THE PEOPLE.
mutter

WE MUST DISPLAY GRAND DUKE ALPHONSE TO THE PUBLIC, THEN HOLD A MAGNIFICENT FUNERAL
CHATTER
PERHAPS IT'S BEST TO HOLD THE FUNERAL AFTER THE CORONATION.
AND WE MUSTN'T FORGET THE PREPARATIONS FOR PRINCESS ERMINIA'S BRIDAL PROCESSION.
CHATTER
NO, THEN THE PEOPLE WILL BE DISSATISFIED.
THE CORONATION MUST BE THE MOST MAGNIFICENT, OR WE WILL LOSE FACE IN FRONT OF THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.
BUT WE MUSTN'T MAKE LIGHT OF THE FORMER KING EITHER..
COUNT YURIAS HAS VANISHED!
YOUR GRACE,
THERE'S TOO MUCH TO DO. IT'S GIVING ME A HEADACHE.

YURIAS HAS...?
hmph
HE'S INJURED AND HAS LOST HIS EYESIGHT. FORGET ABOUT HIM!
ONTO A MORE IMPORTANT MATTER. I HAVE DECIDED TO HOLD MY CORONATION AFTER ERMINIA'S BRIDAL PROCESSION IS SENT OFF.
I'M SICK OF BEING THE ACTING KING!
I WANT TO BE KING RIGHT AWAY!
THE KING OF PAROS!

PRINCESS ERMINIA'S BRIDAL PROCESSION WILL DEPART TOMORROW MORNING.
ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR IT HAVE BEEN MADE.
THEN IT IS FINALLY TIME...
YES.

Princess Erminia, you are the prince I've loved since I was a child.
I shall consecrate this body to you a thousand times over.
The Sword of Paros-Vol.03 Ch 02 / End